

LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH
2 MARCH 1981

THE INTELLIGENCE WAR BATTLE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER

By ROBERT MOSS

ORGANISED opposition to nuclear power, the key to self-sufficiency in energy for many Western countries, continues to grow, with support from some unusual sources.

Some Nato security officials claim that Libya has helped to finance anti-nuclear demonstrations in West Germany and, according to informed sources in Bonn, the East Germans attempted to jam police radio communications during one major protest rally.

For its part, the Soviet leadership has long understood that the Western economies are highly vulnerable to a strategy of denial of energy resources, and that this vulnerability will increase, rather than diminish, so long as they remain dependent on oil imported from the volatile Gulf region.

A recent Soviet intelligence defector has stated that as early as 1954, before the Russians had established a foothold in the Arab world, the 10th department of the Glavnoe Razvedyatelnoe Upravlenie, (GRU), or chief intelligence directorate of the General Staff, had prepared a plan to promote an oil embargo against the West. The department is responsible for "military economics."

Clear indication

Though an Arab oil embargo did not materialise until two decades later (and then for reasons other than Soviet prodding), the existence of such a plan in Moscow as early as 1954 gives a clear indication of the long-range character of Soviet strategic thinking.

The plan, which was submitted to the Politburo, is said to have been a major motivating factor in the Russians' subsequent efforts to expand their influence in the Middle East.

A number of leading scientists, ranging from Andrei Sakharov to Dr Fred Hoyle, have suggested that, as part of the same strategy of denial of energy, the Soviet Union is today playing a covert role in promoting the anti-nuclear lobby.

Solid evidence to support this charge has so far been sparse, although there has been a direct link-up between the Soviet-controlled front organisation, the World Peace

Council (WPC) and some of the anti-nuclear lobbies, both in West Europe and the United States.

However, the composition of a conference held in Pittsburgh at the beginning of last month by Mobilisation for Survival (MFS), a leading American anti-nuclear umbrella group, provides fascinating clues to the involvement of Moscow-line Communists and Soviet front organisations, together with ecological and new left activists, in the campaign.

The MFS has married the anti-nuclear protest campaign to the cause of unilateral disarmament.

Key speakers

Two of the key speakers at the conference, Miss Kay Camp of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Mr Terry Provance of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), have been active within the Soviet-dominated WPC.

The WPC's America section, the US Peace Council, and the Communist party, USA, both formally affiliated to Mobilisation for Survival, were both represented at the conference, as well as a clutch of ultra-left revolutionary organisations such as the Communist Workers' party, the Socialist Workers' party and the Workers World party.

One of the most radical speeches was delivered by Mr Eqbal Ahmad of the Institute for Policy Studies, a Washington-based think-tank that has considerable influence among Left-wing journalists and Congressional staffers.

He told his audience that there is no "Soviet threat" because Russia "is not an expanding power" and "will not expand into the Third World."

Departing from the central themes of the meeting, he pooh-poohed reports of the torture of the American hostages in Teheran, claiming that "for them, mistreatment is not having hot baths."

The MFS conference, as a top short-term, the organisation of anti-nuclear rally in

burg, Pennsylvania on 28, the anniversary of the accident at the Three Mile Island power plant—an accident that did not claim a single life, but has assumed a mythic importance in the minds of anti-nuclear activists around the world.

Dr Michio Kaku, a physicist who addressed the meeting, outlined a strategy for bankrupting the operators of power plants through prolonged litigation.

The MFS supporters also approved a plan to stage a nationwide consumer boycott of the giant General Electric Corporation, and a "blockade" of the nuclear power plant that is nearing completion at Diablo Canyon in Southern California.

Agee network exposed

A COPIOUSLY documented study that has just appeared in the United States contains the most systematic expose that has so far been published of the network of activists associated with the CIA defector, Mr Philip Agee, that is seeking to disrupt the work of Western Intelligence agencies.

The study is entitled "Broken Seals" and is published by the Western Goals Foundation. (available from 309A Cameron Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Price: four dollars.)

Apart from its exhaustive listing of contacts between Mr Agee and his friends and Soviet bloc secret services, especially the Cuban DGI, one of the most intriguing elements in this study is its analysis of the "sources" of "Covert Action Information Bulletin," the Washington-based publication that has achieved international notoriety for "naming names" of real and alleged CIA operatives.

The author's comment that "one is drawn to the conclusion that the 'CAIB' is utilising information provided by hostile intelligence services."

One of the alleged CIA case officers named in that issue is stationed in Tripoli.

Col Gaddafi's regime in Libya is engaged in a savage assassination campaign against its enemies abroad, supplies finance, weapons and training for many terrorist groups, and serves as a surrogate for the Soviet Union in the Middle East and Africa.

It is not difficult to see who stands to gain from the exposure of alleged Western intelligence officers based in Libya.

The Western Goals report is likely to provide further ammunition to those legislators in the American Congress who are pressing for a new law to penalise those who irresponsibly disclose the identities of United States intelligence personnel.

Libyan spies in Pakistan

WESTERN analysts are intrigued by the case of two Libyan diplomats who were quietly expelled from Islamabad in mid-January. One was the Military Attache

According to Western intelligence sources, local security officials discovered that the Libyans had been trying to recruit agents among Pakistani officers attached to the General Staff.

Their special interests are said to have been: Factional politics inside the Pakistani regime; Pakistani policy towards Afghanistan and Pakistani relations with the Arab Gulf.

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